

But if the argument for supporting humane treatment of our immigrant population does not sway you, consider that many of these legal immigrant families include children, kids who are American citizens, kids who will be denied food stamps for an extra 5 years. If you do not see this as unconscionable, I do not know what you see as unconscionable. If you do not think this is un-American, I do not believe there is anything that is un-American more than this.

WHAT RECONCILIATION MEANS

(Mr. BOYD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOYD. Madam Speaker, the Republican leadership has announced earlier that tomorrow we will vote on budget reconciliation. I wanted to understand better what reconciliation meant, so I went to Webster. And let me read to you what it means to reconcile: to restore to friendship or harmony; secondly, to make consistent or congruous; thirdly, to check a financial account against another for accuracy. That is Webster. The Republican budget reconciliation certainly does not restore friendship and harmony since they have been unwilling to include any Democrats, including our Blue Dog Coalition, in the discussion of this huge deficit problem. And it certainly does not make our financial accounts balance since it will increase our annual deficit by more than \$16 billion. Under this administration and Republican leadership in Congress, our national debt has shot through the \$8 trillion mark and continues to rise.

PAYGO PROPOSAL

(Mr. COOPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I think most folks back home want us to get along with each other in order to strengthen our Nation. Well, how can we best do that, especially at a time of contentious budget reconciliation? There is a simple proposal called PAYGO that is not theory; it has worked incredibly well. It worked from the year 1990 to the year 2002 when our friends on the other side of the aisle allowed it to expire.

How well did it work? Well, Alan Greenspan, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, said it is the single most important thing we can do to right our fiscal ship. Pay-as-you-go means that if you want to spend more money, you have to find offsetting cuts somewhere before you can think about spending the new money. And it also means if you want to offer someone a tax cut, that is fine. Just figure out a way to pay for it. It is a simple and clear rule, and it guided our Nation into prosperity from 1990 to 2002.

Why can we not readopt that? It has proven to work and work well for all

Americans and to strengthen our Nation. The Blue Dog Coalition has been more consistent in its support for the PAYGO provisions than any other group in Congress. Support PAYGO.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. BERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I love coming down here and listening to these whiz bangs on the other side talk about their fiscal responsibility and all of this foolishness that they have put forth to the American people. It makes me want a dip of snuff. It is almost like they cannot add and subtract. I know they cannot multiply and divide. But the great mystery to me will always remain why in 5 years' time when they have increased the national debt by \$3 trillion and demonstrated beyond a shadow of a doubt that they have absolutely no interest in being responsible, they would come here, present a budget that increases the debt by tens of billions of dollars more and try to tell the American people this is what you need; this is what we are going to do for you. You are going to have to answer to your children and grandchildren. And I would love to be there when they walk up to you and say, Grandmother, Grandfather, why did you do this to us?

RECONCILIATION PLAN

(Mr. MELANCON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MELANCON. Madam Speaker, I cannot vote for this reconciliation plan for one very simple reason: Now is not the time to be cutting taxes for the wealthy in our country when the people of the ravaged gulf coast region receive silence and burdensome loans. I join my fellow Blue Dogs in opposition to this plan. Do the math: \$54 billion in spending cuts minus \$70 billion in tax cuts equals a \$16 billion increase in the deficit. We give tax cuts to the rich and continue to run up the deficit, but continue to send loans to the people who need their government the most in the gulf coast region.

Our government must do just as President Bush said in Jackson Square, whatever it takes to rebuild. I agree with the President on rebuilding. But let me be clear. Cutting taxes for the wealthy while loaning money to the devastated communities along the gulf coast is the wrong course of action. Let us start sending real help to the people in need and stop sending millionaires refund checks.

STUDENT AID IN RECONCILIATION BILL

(Mr. OLVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, tomorrow's reconciliation bill is a reckless attack on students attending college. Basically, the bill burdens students from low- and middle-income families with 33 percent higher debt to pay for tax cuts that benefit almost exclusively those whose income is over \$200,000 a year. This bill cuts \$14 billion from student aid by increasing interest rates and taxes on loans and charging students new fees.

The cost of college is skyrocketing, and it already leaves the average student \$17,000 in debt. This bill would increase that debt by 33 percent. Many low- and middle-income students will no longer be able to afford college and their lifetime earning power will be reduced. Under the reconciliation bill, at least four students are going to start their careers burdened with added debt to pay for each millionaire's tax cut. And all this is being done so that the wealthiest 3 percent of Americans can have another huge tax cut.

REPUBLICAN RECONCILIATION BILL

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. The Republican reconciliation bill, pretending to finally bring a sense of fiscal responsibility to that side of the aisle, having increased our debt by 62 percent in 5 years, actually is bleeding middle-income families, kids who want to get a higher education, \$14 billion out of student loans.

Those youngsters in the elementary schools are eating too much. Cut student lunches for those kids. Foster care, the family values side, long-term care for seniors. Why are they cutting all that? So they can bleed the poor and the middle class in this country. And then as they create this giant sea of red ink, they will float the yachts of the wealthy on it by giving them \$70 billion in tax breaks, actually increasing the deficit, having already stuck it to the middle class and struggling families.

They are going to increase the deficit in order to finance tax cuts for people who earn over \$300,000 a year so their yachts can be a little bigger and float a little higher. They should be ashamed of what they are doing to America and what they are doing to middle-income and struggling families.

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WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2419, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 539 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows: